

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, and 15 are pending. Claims 2-6, 8-14, and 16-24 are canceled. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, and 15 and canceled claims 2-6, 8-14, and 16-24 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-24 prior to this Amendment is not patentable, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the remaining claims. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue additional claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-24 as presented prior to this Amendment and additional claims in one or more continuing patent applications.

Claims 1, 7, and 15 are believed to be allowable. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Gerald H. Glanzman/

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